

Mastering the Art of the Book Review with Pip

Learning objective: To evaluate a book review, identify its key structural features, and use persuasive language to critique a text.

Join Pip the bookworm as we explore how to write a brilliant book review! Read the questions carefully and use your best vocabulary to show why a book is worth reading (or skipping!).

Answer Key: 1.C, 2.True, 3.Synopsis, 4.B, 5.False, 6.Opinion, 7.A, 8.True, 9.Recommendation, 10.B.

Greater Depth Analysis: A strong review balances a brief summary with personal reflection and specific evidence from the text.

Word bank: synopsis · recommendation · opinion · persuasive · critique · characterisation · plot · vocabulary

1. Which of these is the best opening for a book review? A) I like books. B) My dog ate my homework. C) 'The Starry Forest' is an enchanting tale that will capture your imagination from the very first page. * D) I read a book today. (1 mark)

2. True or False: A book review should give away the entire ending, including the final twist. (1 mark)

3. What is the term for a short summary of the main events in a story? (1 mark)

4. Why should you include your personal opinion in a review? A) To make it longer. B) To help the reader understand if the book is suitable for them. * C) To show off your handwriting. D) Opinions are not allowed in reviews. (1 mark)

5. True or False: It is impossible to write a good review if you did not enjoy the book. (1 mark)

6. A review often contains a mix of facts about the plot and the author's _____. (1 mark)

7. Which word describes language used to convince someone to read a book? A) Persuasive * B) Boring C) Confusing D) Negative (1 mark)

8. True or False: You should always suggest a specific audience (e.g., 'fans of adventure stories') in your review. (1 mark)

9. What is the final part of a review where you decide if others should read the book called? (1 mark)

10. If a book costs £7.99, is it helpful to mention the price in a review? A) Yes, always. B) Only if you are discussing if it is good value for money. * C) Never. D) Only if the book is over £10. (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a 'Five-Star' rating icon for a book Pip has just finished. Include a tiny drawing of Pip the caterpillar peeking out from behind the stars.



Extension challenge: 1. Explain why it is important to avoid 'spoilers' when writing a synopsis. 2. Justify your answer: Does a review need to be positive to be useful? 3. Compare and contrast a book review with a piece of information text. 4. What might happen if a reviewer only described the plot without including their own thoughts? 5. Write a persuasive opening sentence for a review of a book about a time-travelling teapot. 6. If you were recommending a book to a friend, what three criteria would you use to decide if it is a 'five-star' read?